

~~SECRET~~

Dick, time is running out a little, but I don't want to cut you short, but even if you cut yourself a little short, do please say that one thing that you said this morning about the one place that you know in the Agency where you could be sure that bureaucracy was licked.

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[REDACTED]

This scene back here reminds me of nothing so much as my trip to

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[REDACTED] last week. I'm not sure whether the fellow in the red suit

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is [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], but

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I must say that when I got down there in this swirling snow storm and

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[REDACTED] took me in charge and said, "Well, we'll disregard the snow. We'll go through with the program anyway." I said, "Fine."

But there was one thing fortunately that I recognized that we weren't

[REDACTED]

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I liked what I saw [REDACTED] There is a lift and enthusiasm in the air down there which was very impressive to me, and in addition to that a great deal of thoughtfulness as to what should go into the courses and how they should be conducted. I think the basic Operations Course is gradually getting to be much closer to what we should have in the Agency for the purposes of the Clandestine Services, and I was tickled to death to note the amount of testing and ingenuity which is being shown in the curriculum of that course. As far as the whole [REDACTED] is

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concerned, the atmosphere just couldn't be better, in my opinion, and when I said this morning that the ingenuity which was shown in solving certain of the individual problems and handling of unique cases that have to be taken care of down there, had demonstrated to me that the frigid hand of bureaucracy had not yet clamped itself on the shoulder [REDACTED]

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In addition, I'd like to comment that the job of getting the Scientific and Technical Operations Course going at the latter part of this year is a great step forward. There's no doubt about it. I haven't any question either that the course needs refinement and probably needs improving. But at least we've got it launched now and if the same amount of thought goes into that that's gone into the Operations Course, I'm sure it will be a first-class production.

And so with thanks to you all for the help you've given us in the years past and particularly in 1958, I'd like to wish you all, on behalf of the Clandestine Services, [REDACTED] the Training Officer, and all the rest of us, a very Merry Christmas.

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